

The bill also does nothing to increase transparency of the trade negotiations, deliberations, and rulings veiled in secrecy. It fails to advocate the publication of negotiating texts, or address the critical need for changes to dispute settlement mechanisms that are not even open to the submission of amicus brief by non-governmental entities that have an interest in the deliberations.

The Democratic substitute offered by Mr. RANGEL and Mr. LEVIN, which the Republican leadership unfairly blocked him from offering, seriously looks at ways to address all of these matters. It would take advantage of the scarce opportunity fast track offers for Congress to shape the future of a world trade system with leadership from the United States on issues important to workers and the environment.

The bill calls for specific rules to ensure that it would not be a trade violation for a country to enforce a Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA), such as the treaty prohibiting trade in endangered species. It would also make progress on the issue of investor provisions by clarifying that investors protection rules cannot be used to undermine legitimate health, safety, and environmental laws.

In addition, the Rangel-Levin bill would explicitly clarify the right of WTO members to adopt measures necessary to respond to national emergencies like the HIV/AIDS epidemic by increasing access to essential medicines, and set at least some limitations on challenges to prescription drug price containment.

Moreover, the bill would provide a much stronger role for Congress by providing a structural biennial review of ongoing negotiations, and a process for the House to bring a resolution rescinding trade promotion authority to the floor for a vote if it is supported by at least one-third of the House.

At a time when we have the chance to move a progressive U.S. trade agenda forward, I regret that the Republican leadership squandered the opportunity to work with Democrats to achieve legislation that enjoyed strong bipartisan support. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against the Thomas bill and in support of the Rangel-Levin alternative.

#### EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING TUBEROUS SCLEROSIS

SPEECH OF

**HON. LYNN N. RIVERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 4, 2001*

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for this resolution to raise awareness of and strengthen the fight against tuberous sclerosis.

This genetic disease often goes undetected, preventing those struggling with the disease from obtaining needed care. Afflicting vital organs, tuberous sclerosis causes tumor growth and seizures and can lead to learning disabilities and behavioral problems.

The nearly one million people worldwide known to have tuberous sclerosis need help, and it is our responsibility as public leaders to assist them by strengthening efforts to identify and treat this disease. The cause of the mutations that cause tuberous sclerosis are not understood, but increased research and

attention to this disease will increase our chances of finding a cure.

By passing this resolution, we are demonstrating to the American people that we know tuberous sclerosis is a problem and that we are determined to solve it. And we are telling health care providers and researchers that we recognize their efforts and will stand behind them in seeking an effective treatment for this disease. I am proud to support these efforts.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BOB RILEY**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 10, 2001*

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 482, H.R. 2944, the District of Columbia FY2002 Appropriations Conference Report. Had I been present I would have voted "nay."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JEFF FLAKE**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 10, 2001*

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the vote on rollcall vote No. 482. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

#### BIPARTISAN TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN R. THUNE**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2001*

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I have thought long and hard about this important vote on trade promotion authority. Frankly, people in South Dakota have different views about the issue of trade and its impact on our rural economy. Many of the livestock producers where I come from in Western South Dakota have been hurt by unfair trade practices. I have listened to their stories and am more convinced than ever that if South Dakota agriculture is to fully realize the benefits of trade, it must be fair trade. To get fair trade, we must have a seat at the table.

In recent years, the United States has fallen behind. Our competitors in Europe and around the world are negotiating trade agreements that will give them advantages over the United States in their trade with other countries.

There are 130 regional trade agreements currently in force today. The United States is a party to just two. Every day it gets more and more difficult for our products to be exported overseas.

Fair trade requires tough negotiations, sound agreements, and strong enforcement. I believe President Bush will negotiate fair agreements with other countries to open up markets overseas for U.S. goods. I also believe he will enforce these agreements by imposing real consequences on countries that

violate trade agreements with the United States.

I vote for this legislation today out of a belief that President Bush will do the right thing for American agriculture. That means according agriculture the high priority it deserves at the trading table. And as I indicated earlier, that also means tough negotiations, sound agreements and strong enforcement. Only then will we see fair trade and only then will we realize the promise of greater trading opportunities for South Dakota farmers, ranchers and small businesses.

I will be watching to make sure that agriculture gets a fair shake. I will be watching, and if agriculture is not treated fairly, the Administration will be hearing from me early and often.

I am pleased that this legislation strengthens the role of Congress by requiring the U.S. Trade Representative to consult with the House and Senate Agriculture Committees during the negotiations, and prior to any agreement involving agriculture. As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, I look forward to that new voice.

Mr. Speaker, South Dakota has broad interests. I've listened to agricultural producers and business interests from across the state tell me how they feel about trade and South Dakota's ability to keep up. I've heard again and again that if agreements are fair and enforced that we can compete and win in the world marketplace. I will fight to make that happen.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. BOB MILEY

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 10, 2001*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, at the end of this year the House will say farewell to one of our most loyal and dedicated employees, namely, the Superintendent of Buildings, Bob Miley.

I have known Bob for several years and worked very closely with him in 1997-98 during my tenure as chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch. The person who responded to my questions about the many problems related to this House complex was Bob Miley. If ever a person knew first hand what needed to be accomplished in a priority manner it was Bob. He planned and executed his assignment with skill and expertise.

When you work your way up through the system as Bob did, starting from being a temporary elevator operator in 1962, and rising to the position of building superintendent some 25 years later, it clearly indicates your skills are recognized by everyone.

The work of caring for the House takes dedication and devotion on a daily basis. One doesn't simply start at nine and expect to leave at six. The problems related to work follow you 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. This vast facility is always changing and the unexpected occurs regularly.

Bob Miley has a difficult job. His patience and understanding is in large part the reason for his successful reign. He has earned respect from the members and his colleagues who work so closely with him on a daily basis.

I hope every member of this House will recognize the contribution Bob Miley has made